Macdonnell, Sir Archibald Cameron, 1869-1941 (Commandant, Royal Military College) Nov. 1919- June 1920 (037)

December 28th, 1914

General A. C. Macdonell, C.B.,
Royal Military College,
Kingston.

My dear General:

On my return from the West I have found your letter together with the narrative of the first Canadian Division. I am deeply indebted to you for your kindness in sending it to me and I will take an early opportunity to read it. The fact of my knowing a little of the country will add greatly to the pleasure.

I look back to my visit at Kingston with much pleasure and not the least part of it was the opportunity I had of meeting you. I hope that before long this opportunity will be repeated.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 3rd, 1919

Major General A. C. Macdonnell, K.C.B., etc.
Royal Military College,
Kingston.

My dear General:

The outline of the re-organisation of the Advisory body which you have sent me which really means changing it into a Governing body seems to me to be very satisfactory. It is very much on the same lines as the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto. If you could get a good Board who would undertake to attend and carry responsibility I think you would find that the Commandant's hands would be greatly strengthened. I find in the University of Toronto that I have no difficulty in getting through nearly everything that I bring forward. The nominations to all posts are made by me and in practice they are almost always confirmed. Probably the only condition that would modify your nomination would be the necessity of choosing some one who has already been qualified by passing the Civil Service Commission.

One advantage further of such a board would be continuity of policy. At present the Board of Visitors is as you know frequently changing and there is no attempt on their part to assume any responsibility.

I am of opinion that a strong Board, if it can be secured, and there is the difficulty that I see, would be a great help to the Commandant.

I am returning to you the document. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA

Kingston, Ont.

14th January, 1920.

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir Robert:-

The thought occurred to me quite recently that our Gentlemen Cadets would profit in general culture by having the privilege of listening to a lecture of about an Hour's duration upon some subject of general educational value delivered by a member of the Staff of our excellent Universities in Canada.

The subject might most profitably be left to the discretion of the member selected for the contribution, taking into consideration the age of the Gentlemen Cadets and their interests.

If you feel like co-operating with me in this decision, would you kindly let me know. I would appreciate your suggestions upon the question. I hope to have the Gentlemen Cadets listen to an outsider about once every three weeks on a Wednesday or Saturday evening from eight to nine o'clock.

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Macdonell

Major-General,

January 21st, 1920

Major General Macdonnell, K.C.B.,
Royal Military College,
Kingston, Ont.

Dear General Macdonnell:

I have asked Professor Wrong whether he would be willing to go to Kingston and give a lecture to the gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military College some Saturday evening. He tells me that he will be glad to go in about three weeks. At present he is suffering somewhat from a cold. I am sure that Professor Wrong would give a most interesting lecture and of the kind that you wish to have.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA

Kingston, Ont.

14th May, 1920.

Colonel Sir Robert Falconer, KCMG.MA.LLD,
The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir, Robert,

I am sending my Director of Studies and three Professors, one of Physics and Chemistry, and two of the Engineering Department to gather equipment notions from the New Technical School at Toronto.

If it suits your convenience, I would like them to be in Toronto the day of your Convocation in order that they might interview any of your Graduates whom you might deem suitable for the vacant positions on our Staff. They are as follows:-

Instructor in Mathematics.
Instructor in Physics.
Instructor in French.

I would appreciate it very much if you would permit and facilitate their inspection of your laboratories on the morning of the day after Convocation.

I am looking forward to your visit here as ~~a Member~~ President of our Board of Visitors.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

A. G. Macdonell

May 19th, 1920

Major-General A. C. Macdonnell, K.C.B.,
Royal Military College,
Kingston.

Dear General Macdonnell:

We shall of course be very glad indeed to have your Director of Studies and other professors present at our Convocation and I shall see that invitations are sent to them for June 3rd when an honorary degree will be conferred upon General Currie among others, and also for the ceremonies on Friday afternoon.

I will also speak to the heads of the laboratories, Physics and Chemistry and any others that you may specify, so that they may be ready to facilitate the inspection to the utmost possible measure.

I am looking forward to my visit to the Military College at the beginning of the week after the close of our term. With kindest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA

Kingston, Ont.

20th May, 1920.

Colonel Sir R.A.Falconer, KCMG, DCL, LLD,
The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir Robert,

I thank you indeed for your kind concurrence in the proposed visit of the Director of Studies and our Professors to your Convocation, and for arranging for invitations to be sent to them.

I am very glad to hear that the University of Toronto is going to honour General Currie and I know it will cause intense gratification to all those who had the honour to serve under him in the Corps.

It is very pleasant to think that you will be paying a visit to the College shortly and I am looking forward very much to seeing you.

The servant question is rather acute at the present time and we are experiencing considerable difficulty in obtaining domestics, being quite servantless at present. I hope, however, that by the time of your visit to the Royal Military College we shall have recruited the help we at present lack, and that I shall have the privilege and pleasure of your company in the Commandant's Quarters during your stay in this city.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Macdonell

May 26th, 1920

Major General A. C. Macdonell,
Royal Military College,
Kingston.

Dear General Macdonell:

It was very kind of you to think of having me as your guest while I am to be in Kingston, but really it would be too great an imposition on your kindness. We know what it is to be without domestic help. Last year I stayed at the Frontenac, and while thoroughly appreciating the great courtesy of your kind offer, I think that I should again this year get a room at the Hotel, which only means that I stay there in the evening and get my breakfast there.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

May 29th, 1920

Major General A. C. Macdonell, K.C.B.,
Royal Military College,
Kingston, Ont.

Dear General Macdonell:

Please give Lady Macdonell my warm thanks for her kind invitation which I am very glad to accept. However, I cannot leave here until Sunday night, as I have an engagement during the day, and if you will allow me I think I will go direct to the Hotel and then go over with you early on Monday morning after breakfast.

With kindest regards, I am,
Yours sincerely,

President.

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R.M.C. 4-2-21.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE,
KINGSTON, 11th June, 1920.

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir Robert:-

The remainder of the members of the Staff of the College who were to visit your Institution are going up to Toronto on Sunday, arriving Monday morning and I would be very grateful if you would be kind enough to permit Professor Munn and Lt-Colonel Schmidlin to inspect your Laboratories etc while they are there,

Any further assistance you might afford these two members of my Staff will be very much appreciated I can assure you.

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Macdonell

Major-General.

Department of Militia and Defence,

Ottawa, Canada. June 12th, 1920.

Dear Sir Robert,-

Herewith your copy of Agenda for the Meeting of the Board of Visitors, Royal Military College, which I found among my papers on my return to Ottawa. This is being forwarded to you as no doubt you wish to keep it for reference.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Major.

Hon.Colonel Sir R.A.Falconer,KCMG,MA,etc,
President, Toronto University,
Toronto Ont.

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

COMMANDANT'S REMARKS FOR THE BOARD OF VISITORS,1920.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for consideration by the Board of Visitors the following notes and suggestions on the subjects I consider the most important at present for the Royal Military College.

PAY OF SUPERIOR STAFF

In my Predecessor's Annual Report of 1919, he put before you in detail, recommendations for the pay of the Superior Staff As a result of his recommendations and the report of the Board of Visitors, an Order-in-Council dated 7th August,1919 was passed laying down the following rates of pay:-

Professors:- Minimum salary $3480. per annum with annual increase of $180. until maximum of $4200 is reached.

Associate Professors:- Minimum salary $2580 per annum, with annual increase of $180 until maximum of $3300 is reached.

Instructors:- Minimum salary $1800 per annum, with annual increase of $120 until maximum of $2400 is reached.

These are all consolidated rates.

At the same time, he recommended that rantals should be charged for all Government Quarters.

On my arrival, as the matter still hung fire, I took up the question of rentals and submitted the following rates, which I found were in line with their ideas at Militia Headqrs.

Company Commanders Quarters.	$600 per annum.
Occupants of eight Quarters.	$480 per annum.
Two Barriefield Houses.	$480 per annum.
W.O.Quarters #1.	$360 per annum.

My recommendations for rentals as above were finally approved at Headquarters.

About the beginning of 1920, it became apparent that owing to the high cost of living, the pay as laid down by P.C.1653 of August 7th was not sufficient to enable the members of my Superior Staff to meet the expenses of living in the way they have to as members of the Superior Staff of the Royal Military College.

This was especially so in the case of Instructors, there being on my Staff two Instructors of Field Officer's Rank, both married, who have to live at the rate of $1800. a year plus a Civil Service Bonus amounting to $270. a year. In these days, where railway employees, etc, obtain wages of anything up to $170 to $180 a month, it seems absurd that a highly trained Instructor at an Institution of this kind should only be paid at the same rate.

Furthermore, owing to the change in the pay of the Permanent Force, it became evident that it would not pay a Lieut-Colonel to leave his Regiment and come here as Professor, or a Captain, either from the Permanent Force or the Imperial Army would certainly be unwilling to take on an Instructor's appointment here in that he would lose financially rather than gain by so doing, $1800 not even being the pay of a Warrant Officer in the Permanent Force.

I feel that the principle with regard to salaries in an Institution of this kind should be such that it would be regarded both by Militia Officers and civilians as an appointment much to be desired and sought after, and to reach this ideal, we must give such salaries as will attract the best men.

As a means to reaching this end, I forwarded a recommendation in which I suggested that all members occupying Government Quarters should occupy them free of rent, and be supplied with fuel and light, and those members of the Staff who were unable to obtain Government Quarters should be allowed in lieu of Quarters, fuel and light at the following rates:-

Married members.	$600 per annum.
Unmarried members.	$300 per annum.

This recommendation is now before the authorities in Ottawa but I understand it is not likely to be granted. This being the case, I can only recommend that such action be taken as will ensure that members of the Superior Staff receive not only a living wage, but that, as stated before, the very best men available will be attracted to the appointments which we have to offer them.

It is most essential in a Dominion Institution of this kind, and with education going ahead as it is, that we obtain really good men for our teaching staff. It is impossible to do this unless we make our appointments attractive. Furthermore we must base our salaries so that Officers of the Permanent Force will be gaining by leaving their Regiments or Corps to come here.

There have, hitherto, been two Staffs at the Royal Military College, - a Military Staff and a Civil Staff. What we want is a homogeneous staff, where all Professors are paid alike, all Associate Professors are paid alike and all Instructors are paid alike.

It was thought that this could be attained under the present system, but it has been found impossible to serve two masters, and the present system of a portion of the College being under the orders of the Civil Service Commission for certain things and under the orders of the Militia Department for others is unworkable, cumbersome and creates endless friction, delays and heart-burning.

As it is obvious that officers at the College cannot be turned into civilians, it became necessary to look into whether the civilian Professors could not be turned into Officers. Now this is exactly what is done at West Point, and since the Great War, there would be no difficulty in doing this at the Royal Military College. In point of fact, out of a civilian staff of 11, five have been officers before and the others could very readily qualify for the grades bestowed upon them.

It is found that as far as possible, the pay of all members of the Superior Staff of the Royal Military College must be on an equal basis for equal service; that is, there should be no distinction made between the military and the civil staff - they should be graded as Professors, Associate Professors and Instructors, whether military or civil.

The present situation is that the pay of the various members of the Superior Staff is inadequate. This applies particularly to Instructors.

The suggestion put forward some years ago that all members of the Superior Staff should be commissioned officers, for some reason or other was not agreed to at that time. This suggestion is again brought forward as the most practical solution of the present difficulty of making adjustments to the pay of the Superior Staff, to the very great betterment and simpler working of the College. It has been found necessary to do this at West Point, and it can be done in the following manner

Regimental Officers, or Officers on the Cadre of a Unit either Permanent or Non-Permanent Militia, or British Regular Army can be appointed to the Royal Military College in their military capacity as "seconded for duty" in the ordinary course.

For what may be known as the present "Civil appointments" to the Superior Staff of the Royal Military College, any gentleman appointed to fill a vacancy who did not already hold a Commission would be appointed to the Canadian Militia and given rank therein which would correspond to the appointment which he is to hold on the Superior Staff.

The various grades which would correspond to the grades of the Superior Staff of the College will be as follows:-

Director of Studies.	-	Colonel.
Professor.	-	Lieut-Colonel.
Associate Professor.	-	Major.
Instructor.	-	Captain.

The rank of an officer who is already holding a Commission enumerated above will have no bearing on his emoluments on appointment to the College, the ranks suggested above being the determining factor in computing the pay to be enjoyed by the incumbent, and also as a guide in appointing these gentlemen to military rank, who have not previously held commissions in the Army.

The understanding is that any gentleman who has not already held a Commission in the Army and is appointed to the Superior Staff of the Royal Military College will be granted a Commission and posted to the General List, Canadian Militia, and from there shown as an officer of the Active Militia, actively employed on the Staff of the Royal Military College of Canada.

In again offering this suggestion, it is again pointed out that the main object to be kept in view is that all members of the Superior Staff of the Royal Military College should be on an equal basis with regard to pay and all other matters affecting their appointments to the College. It is obviously impossible and would be improper to attempt to place the Superior Staff at the Royal Military College on a <u>civil</u> basis, but the difficulties

in the way of placing the whole of the Superior Staff on a military basis are not insurmountable, and furthermore materially assist in maintaining the high standard of discipline at the College and will do away with the inconsistency of Civilian Professors receiving military salutes and being restricted in the giving of punishment and enforcing of discipline.

It is only natural that a Gentleman Cadet at the College should have a higher respect for his superior if he is an Officer in uniform who can instanter give certain military punishments rather than a gentleman in civilian clothes whom he addresses as "Mr" and looks upon merely as a School-teacher.

For purposes of pay, as stated above, the various members of the Superior Staff would be graded for pay as follows:

Director of Studies.	On appointment, graded for pay on the basis of a Colonel, Permanent Force, plus $100 per annum, with an annual increase of $100 per year to a maximum of $500.
Professor.	On appointment, to be graded for pay on the basis of a Lieut-Colonel, Permanent Force, plus $100 per annum, with annual increase of $100 to a maximum of $500.
Associate Professor.	On appointment to be graded on the basis of a Major, Permanent Force, for pay, plus $100, per annum, with an annual increase of $100 to a maximum of $500 per annum.
Instructor.	On appointment to be graded for pay on the basis of a Captain, Permanent Force, with additional pay as laid down for an Associate Professor.

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PENSIONS - CIVIL SUPERIOR STAFF.

My Predecessor recommended to you in 1919 that the question of pensions for the Civil Superior Staff of the College be taken up. We have now received information from Ottawa that all members who were serving on the Civil Staff on April 1st, 1919, will pay from that date 5% from their salaries towards pension. This will now put them on the same footing as military members of the Staff.

At the same time, there are several members of the Civil Superior Staff who have served at the R.M.C. for periods varying from two to thirty years. Before the introduction of this Pension scheme, it was the custom that, on the retirement of a member of the Civil Superior Staff, he would receive a gratuity by Order-in-Council, amounting to roughly one year's pay for every ten years' service. I think I am correct in saying that any member of the Staff who has retired previous to this date has received this gratuity.

SUGGESTED ADJUSTMENT.

I further think that on transfer to the new Pension Scheme, taking effect from 1st April, 1919, the members of the Civil Superior Staff who were serving at the College before that date should be granted this gratuity as if they had retired, and

that the gratuity be credited to them, so that when they actually do retire, they will not only receive the pension, computed from 1st April, 1919, but the gratuity to which they were entitled for service prior to 1st April, 1919.

It is not laid down definitely, I know, that they are entitled to this gratuity, but it has always been a custom to grant it and members of my Staff who have been here for some years on arrival at the College were informed that although there was no pension scheme, it had always been the custom for a retiring member of the Staff to be granted a gratuity on the above grounds. They have done their work here with the expectation of this gratuity in case they had to retire, and I consider it would be most unfair if no gratuity is given them for their past services before 1919.

ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION.

As an alternative to the above scheme, I would suggest that the following arrangement be adopted:-

Instead of granting any gratuity which the members of my Staff understood they were to receive on retirement, I would suggest that this gratuity which the Government has been in the habit of voting be applied towards the 5% which the members of the Staff would have paid had the Pension Scheme been in force when they first joined.

In other words, that to any member of the Staff who was serving before 1st April, 1919, the new Pension Scheme be retro-active, and on his retirement he will be graded for pension from the date he first joined the College although he will have paid his 5% into the Fund from 1st April, 1919 only.

R.M.C. CALENDAR.

At the present moment, all information in connection with the College is distributed throughout four or five different publications, which, although containing all the information actually required are not compiled in an agreeable or attractive manner.

We are therefore engaged in the compilation of a College Calendar which will include all necessary particulars such as regulations, syllabus of work done at the College, entrance examination syllabus and report, etc etc.

In addition, the Government has provided funds to purchase a high grade camera in order to enable us to take a series of photographs showing Cadets at work and engaged in sports.

These photographs will appear in the Calendar with explanations and each Department of the College will be taken up separately, giving names, and short sketch of the services of each member of that Department.

I feel that the institution of this Calendar will do much towards explaining the work of the College and as it will be compiled in an attractive form, will prove a useful advertisement. Not only will it include the various publications which are printed at present, but since, owing to the reversion to the four years' Course, these publications would have to be re-printed and revised in any case, it seems a good opportunity to include them in one complete Calendar.

EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATES.

The Commandant in his report last year stated:- "It is encouraging to know that the very important question of the employment of the graduates of this College by the Government has been taken into consideration. Bearing in mind the fact that this is a Dominion Institution, it is evident that the Country has first claim on and should reap the benefit of the ability and talent of the graduates it has trained. A proportion of the graduates could be most advantageously employed in every branch of the Public Works Department, the National Railways, Roadways, Surveys (both Land and Hydrographic and many other occupations of a similar nature."

This is a very important matter and I fully concur in the opinion that it would be an advantage to the Country to secure the services of Graduates who have been trained in an Institution such as the Royal Military College.

So far, there are only two Cadets who have been offered employment this year, on graduation, exclusive of military Commissions.

I believe it would be of very great benefit to Canada if graduates of the R.M.C. were treated as graduates of West Point, who, I am given to understand are all offered on graduation, either a Commission in the American Permanent Service or its equivalent if they wish in some Department of the Government.

SERVANTS.

It has been recommended that Servants should be enlisted into the Non-Permanent Militia, and be carried "On Command" to the Royal Military College.

The advantage gained would be primarily from a disciplinary point of view, since the only serious punishment the Commandant can at present inflict is dismissal.

This matter will be discussed in detail before the Board of Visitors.

BUILDINGS.

This question is set out in greater detail in my Report. I would like to draw attention, however, to the following points.

1. On completion of half of the New Educational Building we will ~~xxxx~~ be in a position to take more Cadets, having sufficient Classroom accommodation, but,

2. Owing to want of dormitory accommodation we shall be unable to expand to the limits of our classroom accommodation. Therefore, on completion of the half of the new Educational Building, it is most essential that the present new Dormitory Building should be completed and Messroom Accommodation be provided, since the present Messroom is situated in the Old Educational Building which cannot be demolished (in preparatio for the completion of the New Educational Building) until Messroom accommodation has been provided.

The present Parade Ground is much too crammed and although I am sorry to see the grass go, undoubtedly it should be extended to the Fort Frederick Dormitory.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

The College has reached such a stage now that it may probably be in its best interests to have a Board of Governors appointed so as to ensure a continuity of policy from one Commandant to another.

This matter will be discussed before the Board of Visitors.

It has been suggested that the Governing Board should be modelled somewhat on the lines of our larger Universities and in this suggestion I concur.

HISTORICAL RECORDS.

A tour of the College Buildings will show the astounding result that from front to rear, right to left, there is nothing that will distinguish it from The Royal Military College of any other part of His Majesty's Dominions. There is not a single portrait of Wolfe in the Royal Military College, nor of Brock, nor of any other celebrated Generals who have fought in Canada to gain it for or retain it to the Crown.

With our Assembly Hall on the way to completion, it seems an opportune time to decide upon what should hang upon the College Walls.

It would surely be an inspiration to the Cadets if we had oil paintings of the Founder of the College, Honourable Alexander Mackenzie, and the various Commandants.

Should there not be in letters of gold, the Regiments and Units which took part in the Capture of Quebec, surmounted by a portrait of Wolfe? In fact, every Regiment or Unit which fought to gain Canada for and to hold it as an integral part of the British Empire should be mentioned on our Walls, these of course including those who went to Egypt, South Africa, etc.

Coming to the Great War, there should be a Canadian Corps Shield, with a list of their troops, badges, battle patches, surmounted by portraits of the Canadian Corps Commanders, Generals Alderson, Byng and Currie.

The same suggestion might apply to each of the Canadian Divisions, with portraits of the Divisional Commanders.

The Divisional Shields should be complete with battle honours and care taken that every Regiment which actually reached France and served in France is included, thou it may have been subsequently broken up, such as the 60th and 73rd Battalions, and the Pioneer Battalions.

The intention is, of course, that the Cadet's interes

should be excited, and he should learn as much by ocular demonstration as possible.

With this end in view, I visited the Archives in Ottawa and found that they had a number of oil paintings of Wolfe, and several of Brock, Montcalm and others. There are splendid plans of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and other important battlefields of Canada. There were several spirited paintings, illustrating the North West Rebellion, the surrender of Poundmaker to General Middleton, 1885; the Battle of Queenston Heights; ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the capture of Detroit, etc etc. Surely copies of these could be obtained for the Cadets' Messroom and other appropriate places in the College precincts.

We lay it down as a principle that the Royal Military College of Canada is the natural repository for and should be the actual custodian of the best military traditions of Canada.

I believe that in the Royal Military College should be kept a "Red Book", in which all lists of those who ever fought for Canada would be kept, so that when a father brought his son to the College, it would be a matter of pride for him to say "Your Grandfather, and your father fought for Canada in such and such a Regiment, and if you look up the "Red Book" in the Royal Military College, you will see his name." In this manner, might the names of those who have, with splendidly heroic self-sacrifice, fought for Canada, be perpetuated.

I would ask that the Board of Visitors give this matter of Historical Records, their very earnest consideration.

TRAINING GROUND.

Owing to the loss of Barriefield Commons, our trainin space is extremely circumscribed, and it is very important that we should have in perpetuity the use of that Ground by Navy Bay running down to Deadman's Bay, in the vicinity of, and including, Fort Henry. As the College grows, it may become necessary to build accommodation on this ground for the Superior Staff, since it is impossible to further encroach on the Outer Enclosure for building space, except to the very great detriment of training.

A. C. Macdonell

Major-General.

Commandant, The Royal Military College of Canada.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE CLUB

Of Canada.

Organized 1884.
Incorporated 1898.

Lt.Col.E. Gerald Hanson, Hon.Sec.Treas.
160 St.James St.
M O N T R E A L.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Royal Military College Club, held at Montreal, on Saturday, April 17th, 1920, the following resolution was passed.

"That this Club heartily approves of the recent decision of the Authorities to re-establish the four years' course at the R.M.C. but that it views with apprehension, the decision to lower the age of admission to the College, from 16 to 21 on the 1st of January, preceding the entrance examination, to 16 to 19 on the date of admission to the College, and correspondingly, the standard of entrance examination. In consistently advocating, as it has for the past several years, the return to the four years' course, it has been the aim of this Club, not to add a preparatory year to the curriculum, but to bring to the College a higher standard of education such as to fit cadets on graduation, who do not adopt a military carrer, to at once take up an engineering profession or should they so desire, to obtain their degrees from Universities in less time than would be the case should the additional year be added at the beginning of the present College course.

The members of this Club feel that to lower the age of admission and the standard of entrance examination will result in the College usurping, to some extent, the function of the preparatory schools, thereby causing friction with the schools themselves and will, at the same time, defeat the object aimed at in the adoption of the four years' course.

The Club therefore strongly recommends that the standard of entrance examination to the R.M.C. correspond as nearly as possible to that of the University matriculation examinations, and that the age of admission to the College be from 16 to 21 on the 1st of January preceding the entrance examination."

H.Q. 74-79-2.
R.M.C. 6-1-10.

MEG.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE,

KINGSTON.

1st May, 1920.

The Secretary, Militia Council,
Ottawa, Ont.

(C.G.S. Branch)

In reply to H.Q. 74-79-2 of the 27th April, I note that the Executive Committee of the R.M.C. Ex-Cadets Club approve of the return to the four$years' Course but:-

(1) View with apprehension the decision to lower the age of admission to the College from 16 to 21 on 1st January of the year of entry to 16 and 19 on entering the College.

(2) Desire to introduce the extra year at the end of the Course instead of at the beginning, as now decided, to bring the College to a"higher standard of education".

(3) Feel that the College will usurp the functions of Preparatory Schools by the changes made.

(4) Recommend that the standard of entrance correspond as nearly as possible to that of the University Matriculation examinations.

Regarding Item 1 above. In his Annual Report of 1919, the late Commandant recommended that the maximum age limit should be reduced from 21 to 19 years, and in this the Board of Visitors (1919) concurred.

With the additional years added, it was quite obvious that unless there was a reduction, a Cadet would be at a disadvantage if he wished to enter the Army, or take a Post-Graduate career after leaving us. I therefore recommended under R.M.C. 3-1-4 (H.Q. 74-34-2) dated the 4th September, 1919, that the age of admission should be over 16 and under 19 on January 1st of the year of admission.

The Militia Council, however, decided that the age should not be under 16 years or more than 19 years on the date of joining the College, (H.Q. 74-34-2 dated 5-10-19) and this Regulation was promulgated in General Order 8 of 1920. This lessens the age still further by about eight months, but I am quite satisfied that it is in the best interests of the College.

The greatest asset of the College is that it inculcates discipline and has proved itself to be a character builder. To do this with greatest effect, the Cadets must be within the limits laid down by G.O. 8 of 1920.

Reference Item 2 above. The three years' Course was originally adopted by dropping the College first year, and with a slightly higher academic entrance examination, starting the Cadet on the College second Year, which thus became the Recruit Year.

What has been the result of demanding a higher academic entrance examination?

In June 1919, 102 Candidates presented themselves for admission. Of these, only 31 qualified on the higher grade qualification of 60%. The remainder failed but the line was lowered to take in 20 Candidates who gained an average of 50%.

It was obvious that at that rate there could be no expansion to a strength of 300 - that the source of supply was too small. It was also obvious that the Candidates were failing on the examination as it stood.

With a slight increase in the scope of the academic examinations, A Cadet without any previous training and grounding in his military work was expected to enter the R.M.C. and tackle what used to be known as the College "hard 2nd year" and make up one year's military subjects, training and discipline; and all this as a Recruit and all that that means and stands for, with the result that all were off to a bad start. In too many instances, complete failure ensued; the number of "drops" was appalling. It was also apparent that those who graduated lacked the polish and finish the four years' Course imparted.

The spirit of the Royal Military College is "Thoroughness", and a careful investigation elicited the fact that the Entrance Examination to the College was not in line with the Entrance Examination to the Universities and not within the reach of the majority of the Schools of the Dominion of Canada. After careful consultation with those best fitted to know, it was resolved to lessen the scope of the Entrance Examination and revert to the original standing of 60% on the whole and 50% in individual subjects.

I am informed that the new curriculum places the College within the reach of the majority of Schools in the Dominion.

The problem of our return to the four years' Course also involved solving the problem of reaching sufficient Candidates to make good the Government's Building Scheme and expansion to 300 Cadets.

It is obvious that we required to obtain a solid foundation on starting; that we must have plenty of Candidates to compete to ensure choice, and that these Candidates must start thoroughly grounded academically, and physically, be up to a standard that will enable them to take and profit by our physical training, viz, Gymnastics, Drills, Rides, etc.

The new Entrance Examination practically ensures that a Cadet on entering the College will be ready for a proper grounding to enable him to assimilate thoroughly the training of the ensuing years and it places the Entrance to the College within the reach of any Canadian Boy, wherever he may dwell in Canada, because, if he is unable for any reason to attend one of the recognised Public Boarding Schools, if he applies himself, he can pass from his own Collegiate School.

The Committee advocates bringing the College to a higher standard of education. This is exactly what we are all striving for. We have arranged the Entrance Examination so that it is in line with the University Matriculation. Examination and within reach of every Canadian Boy.

The result will be keen and increased competition and only boys who pass high on the list will obtain vacancies.

The percentage required to pass is high, to ensure thoroughness - 50% in each indi vidual subject and 60% of the whole.

Four years are assigned as the College academic epoch and therefore the 1st Year is the "Preparatory" Year for the 2nd Year; and the 2nd Year is the "Preparatory" Year for the 3rd Year: the 3rd Year is the "Preparatory" Year for the 4th Year and the 4th Year is the "Preparatory" Year for a Post-Graduate Course. It is confidently expected that with our sound ground work at the start, increased educational facilities and thoroughness throughout, that Cadets will reach a much higher standard than ever known before.

We have no right to demand from any Provincial University a recognition as suggested in the Resolution, but we hope in future to be judged by our results. Under the new improved four years' Course, we are confident that any University will find by testing our Graduates that they have acquired an education in the true sense of the word, which they will gladly assume responsibility for.

Reference Item 3 above. I enclose as an appendix to this communication, a statement showing the comparison between the R.M.C. Entrance Examination and the University Matriculation Examination for one of the foremost Universities of Canada.

It is quite apparent that the Preparatory School preparing Candidates for a University Matriculation can equally prepare Candidates for the Royal Military College, as the examinations are practically identical.

The statement that we are interfering with the functions of the Preparatory Schools will not be found ~~out~~ to be borne out by facts. It will take the Preparatory Schools all they can do to coach Candidates in a sufficiently thorough manner to pass on our high standard of 50% in each subject and 60% on the whole and gain a vacancy with the increased competition, now that the entrance examination is in line with the University Matriculation and the College is within reach of the High Schools and Collegiate Schools of the various Provinces, as well as the large Boarding Schools.

Reference Item 4. It mustbe borne in mind that the R.M.C. is a Federal Institution representing the Dominion of Canada. It must therefore be made readily accessible to the sons of all tax-payers, who must be able to compete and pass, if they so desire, by attending the High and Collegiate Schools of their respective Provinces.

With regard to Matriculation, the various Provinces have Universities and College, and these Universities and Colleges vary somewhat in their Matriculation, each probably basing its entrance examination on subjects necessary and useful to the Candidate in his subsequent Course.

The attached Table shows that we adhere pretty closely to the University Matriculation.

I seem to have been misunderstood when I have spoken of sound preparatory ground work. That does not imply that interference with the functions of Preparatory Schools is intended, but our own ground work in Military and Civil subjects, drills and exercises.

To sum up. We have gone back to the old four years' Course; we are aiming at the very mark asked for by the Resolution, but we propose to attain it on sound lines, increased thoroughness, increased competition and the door wide open to the sons of all tax-payers. This will give us competition and a choice that will ensure Cadets with brains, who, with our increased facilities, will go far.

As the Executive Committee of the R.M.C. Club did not send me a copy of their Resolution of the 17th April ultimo, this is the first time I have seen it.

(SIGNED) A. C. Macdonell,

Major-General,

Commandant, The Royal Military College of Canada.